

IN SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

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FEBRUARY 15, 1845.

Submitted, and ordered to be printed.

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Mr. ARCHER made the following

REPORT:

*The Committee on Foreign Relations, to which has been referred the petition of A. P. Brittingham, have had the same under consideration, and report:*

The petitioner was a claimant under the board of commissioners which sat in Washington to decide on the claims of citizens of the United States against the Government of Mexico for outrages on our commerce and other matters. The case of the petitioner appears, from his statement, to have been one of those passed on by the board, but the sum awarded to him to have been greatly reduced by the arbitrator to whom it belonged to pronounce the final decision. This reduction, the petitioner alleges to have been against both the evidence in the case and its equity; and he asks to be indemnified from the Treasury, or by a grant of unsold and waste lands in his immediate neighborhood, which he alleges to be of small value to the Government.

The committee suppose that this statement of the case, as derived from the petitioner, will suggest the obvious answer to his application. The Government was bound to provide for him an impartial form of trial, as regarded the character and extent of his claim. This has been done in the usual mode of provision for such subjects, and the claim of the petitioner found to have been of less amount than that at which he had rated it. The obligation of the Government has been therefore fully discharged, and any thing granted in consideration of his claim would be a mere gratuity to the petitioner.

The committee ask, therefore, that they may be discharged from the consideration of the petition.

